

28 August 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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FROM : J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, History Staff

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SUBJECT : World War II Service by OSS Civilians

1. I appreciate your offer this morning to try to find answers to the enclosed list of questions about OSS civilians' service in World War II, which was submitted to me by Mr. Paul Engert, a Department of the Army historian at the Center for Military History. (Mr. Engert himself was an Army member of OSS)

2. Mr. Engert has been assigned by the Chief of Military History to write a brief objective account of the nature of OSS civilian service in World War II. This is in response to an application by a group of four former OSS civilians for veterans' status. This application is under consideration by a tri-service review board, for which the US Air Force is the action arm. Mr. Engert's study will be submitted to the officer directing this board, who is:

Major Kenneth D Phelps, Jr, USAF
Secretary of the Air Force's Personnel
Council
Department of the Air Force
Washington, DC 20330

3. Presumably this same board will eventually adjudicate the individual case from the Department of State that you received a couple of months ago, and forwarded to the Agency's lawyers for a ruling.

4. Mr Engert informs me that the first three of the 11 questions on his list are the most important for the board's deliberations. The remaining eight questions are listed roughly in order of importance.

J. Kenneth McDonald

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OSS Civilian Service in World War II

1. How were OSS civilians recruited?
2. Did they take an Oath of Allegiance? (If so, samples of the text would be useful)
3. What kind of contract, or written agreement, did they serve under? (again, one or two examples would be useful)
4. Did they sign on for a stipulated period of time, or for the duration of the war?
5. Were they permitted to resign?
6. Did they wear uniforms? If so, what kind, and what insignia?
7. Did they have assimilated military ranks?
8. Were they paid by civil service scales? If not, by what system were they paid?
9. How many served overseas?
10. How many became casualties (total of killed, wounded, and missing in action)?
11. How many were killed in action?